

## MORROW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

80 North Walnut Street, Suite A Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338

Commissioners: Thomas E. Whiston Burgess W. Castle Warren E. Davis

Phone: (419) 947-4085 Fax: (419) 947-1860 www.morrowcountyohio.gov

December 19, 2019

Dr. Stephen Markovich President and Chief Executive Officer OhioHealth Corporation 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Dr. Markovich,

On June 26 of this year, we wrote to congratulate you on your new position as president and CEO of OhioHealth, and to request a meeting with you regarding the Morrow County Hospital. You responded on July 10, declining such a meeting with the Morrow County Commissioners without the participation of the Morrow County Hospital Board.

Since then, as you likely know, the Chair of the Morrow County Hospital Board filed a personal lawsuit against the Morrow County Commissioners to prevent his removal from the Hospital Board. Subsequently, the Hospital Board voted to not meet with the Morrow County Commissioners until this lawsuit is decided by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Over the past several months, we have made repeated attempts to meet with the Hospital Board and each attempt has been rebuffed. Most troubling is that the Board failed to attend the quarterly financial review meeting scheduled for October 23rd, and instead, your employee, CJ Miller, informed us by email that they would not be attending the financial review session, but would respond to any questions by email.

Dr. Markovich, please understand that in the past 20 years the citizens of Morrow County have provided more than \$25 million in tax levy funding in support of the Morrow County Hospital. In a recent newspaper article, the Hospital Board and your staff made clear to the local press that they expect the public to continue this \$1.4 million annual subsidy to the hospital's operations.

As detailed in the attached letter sent to the Hospital Board and Mr. Miller on November 18, there exist many serious concerns regarding the Hospital Board's and Mr. Miller's oversight of our public resources and of the hospital itself. We've received neither acknowledgement of nor any answers to the questions posed in this letter. The Hospital Board and Mr. Miller have offered only marginal compliance with Ohio Public Records Law and the Ohio Public Meetings Law. It is clear at this point that the Hospital Board is in flagrant disregard of their fiduciary and public responsibilities.

We also want to direct your attention to Clause 8.2 in the June 10 Asset Purchase Agreement made between the Board and OhioHealth, that we believe clearly exceeds the legal authority of the Morrow County Hospital Board. Our concerns are detailed in the attached November 18 letter. We believe that it is imperative to resolve these issues regarding the Asset Purchase Agreement, which we view as being highly detrimental to the people of Morrow County. And we believe that it is preferable to all involved, to work through these issues together, as opposed to handling this matter through the court system.

With that, we again ask that you agree to meet with us regarding these issues. We believe this is vital, as the Morrow County Hospital Board is now, in effect, a non-functioning and non-responsive public body. Morrow County has partnered with OhioHealth since 1984, and we desire to continue our long term relationship with a lease/purchase agreement.

We look forward to a positive response from you by January 17, 2020, and to arranging a meeting with the goal of curing these festering concerns.

Sincerely,

## **BOARD OF MORROW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Tom E. Whiston

Burgess W. Castle

Warren E. Davis

MCC/ch